



# PRESS RELEASE

## U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

July 23, 2006

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### **ANCA, ANCDF PREPARED, VX DISPOSAL OPERATIONS BEGIN**

**ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, ANNISTON, Ala.** – Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) managers have concluded the workers are trained and the facility is ready to start VX disposal operations. Considering that assessment, the first M55 rocket was safely disposed of tonight, July 23.

All of the work necessary to convert from GB disposal operations to VX disposal operations and from artillery shell processing to rocket processing operations was completed last week.

“We have been looking forward to the resumption of chemical munition disposal operations. Now we are ready to begin safely destroying the M55 VX rockets while protecting the community, the environment, and the work force,” said Timothy K. Garrett, government site project manager.

Westinghouse Anniston Project Manager Bob Love said, “Our work force did a tremendous job of safely completing the agent changeover from GB to VX.”

To destroy the M55 VX rockets, robotic equipment drains liquid agent into holding tanks prior to destruction in the Liquid Incinerator at about 2700 degrees Fahrenheit. The rockets are then cut into eight pieces and destroyed in the Deactivation Furnace system.

The M55 rockets are the first of three types of VX-filled munitions in line to be destroyed at the ANCDF during this phase of operations. The rockets are 6 feet 6 inches long, contain about five quarts of liquid VX nerve agent, and are encased in a fiberglass shipping and firing tube.

**(More)**



For more information,  
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Following the completion of the M55 rockets, the plant will retool for destroying 155mm VX projectiles followed later by another retooling for destroying VX M23 land mines.

The ANCDF work force eliminated 96,246 gallons of GB nerve agent and 142,428 munitions, including 42,738 GB-filled rockets, stored at Anniston Army Depot between Aug. 9, 2003, and March 2, 2006, during the first phase of disposal operations in Anniston. The third and final phase, involving the disposal of Mustard agent, will follow in approximately two years.

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*The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and ultimately eliminating the chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. Please visit [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil) for more information about CMA and its programs.*



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